

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A lamination mechanism, comprising:
a supply of web material containing a plurality of laminae, said web
5 material including a leading edge;
a lamination station;
a drive mechanism engageable with the web material for driving the
leading edge thereof toward and into the lamination station; and
a lamina separation mechanism that is positioned within the mechanism
10 at a position so that a lamina is separated from the web after the leading edge of the web
material is laminated to a substrate.
2. The lamination mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the
lamina separation mechanism is positioned between the drive mechanism and the
15 lamination station.
3. The lamination mechanism according to claim 1, further
including a sensor for sensing the leading edge of the web material.
- 20 4. The lamination mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said
web material comprises a plurality of laminae separated by lines of weakness.
5. The lamination mechanism according to claim 4, wherein the
lines of weakness are formed by perforations.
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6. The lamination mechanism according to claim 4, wherein each
lamina has either radiused or square corners, and each said lamina has a size that
approximates a card-shaped substrate.

7. The lamination mechanism according to claim 4, wherein the lamina separation mechanism comprises a mechanism that is actuatable into engagement with the web material adjacent the lines of weakness.

5 8. The lamination mechanism according to claim 4, wherein the lamina separation mechanism comprises a structure that is fixed in position.

9. The lamination mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the lamination station comprises a pair of rollers, at least one of said rollers being heated,
10 and further including a motor in driving engagement with each said roller.

10. The lamination mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the drive mechanism comprises a pair of drive rollers.

15 11. The lamination mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the supply of web material and the drive mechanism are provided in a cassette.

12. A method of laminating a substrate, comprising:
providing a lamination mechanism that includes:

20 i) a supply of web material containing a plurality of laminae, said web material including a leading edge;
ii) a lamination station including a staging position; and
iii) a drive mechanism engageable with the web material for driving the leading edge thereof toward and into the
25 lamination station;

advancing the leading edge of the web material to the staging position;
advancing the substrate to the staging position;
laminating the leading edge of the web material to the substrate;
separating a lamina from the web material, the lamina including the
30 leading edge that has been laminated to the substrate; and

completing lamination of the lamina to the substrate.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein separating occurs between the drive mechanism and the lamination station.

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14. The method according to claim 12, wherein separating comprises initiating separation of the lamina from the web material, and then completing separation.

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15. The method according to claim 12, further including sensing the leading edge of the web material between the drive mechanism and the lamination station.

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16. The method according to claim 12, comprising laminating a substrate that is card-shaped.

17. The method according to claim 16, comprising laminating the card-shaped substrate with a lamina that has either radiused corners or square corners.